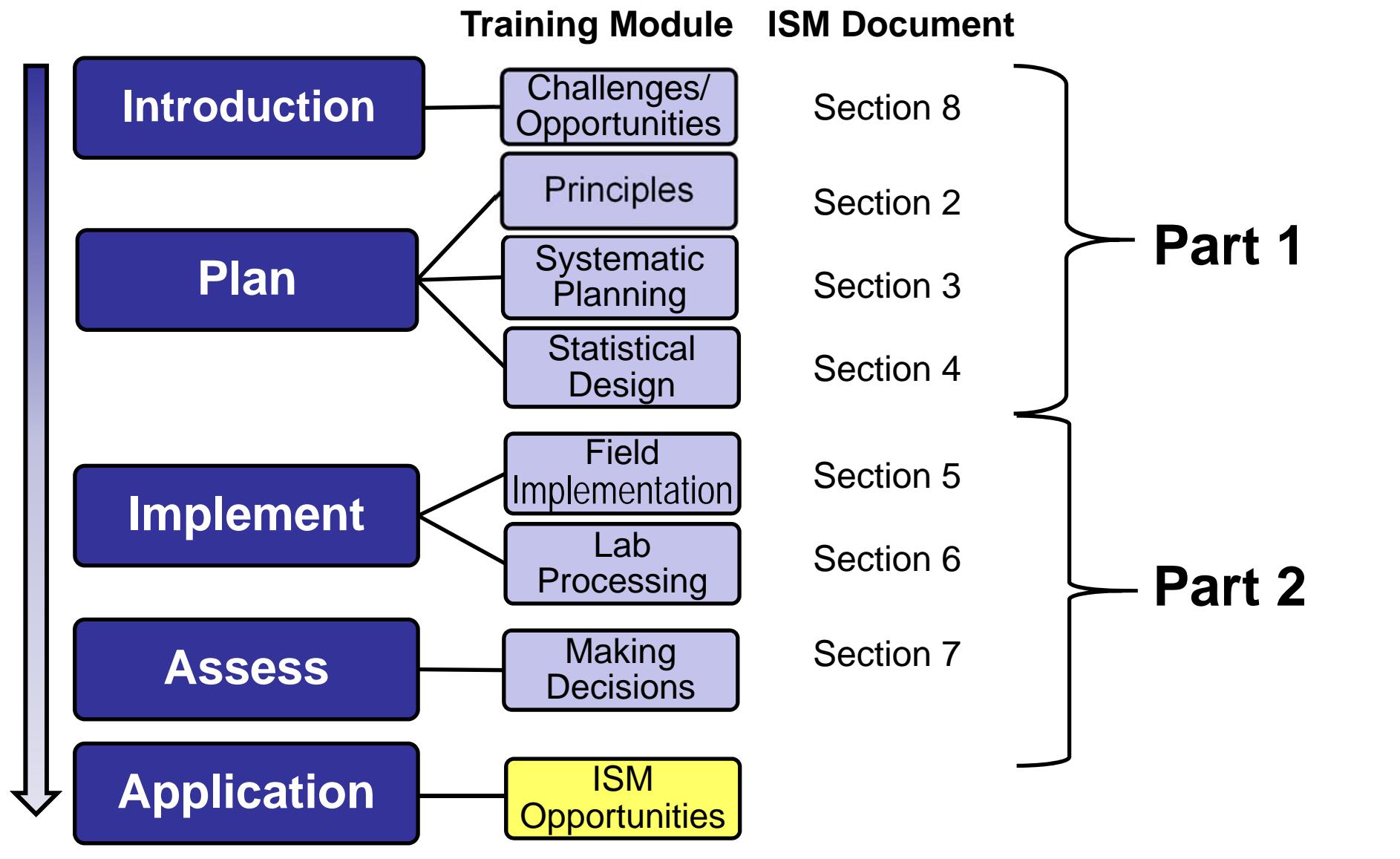


ISM Document and Training Roadmap



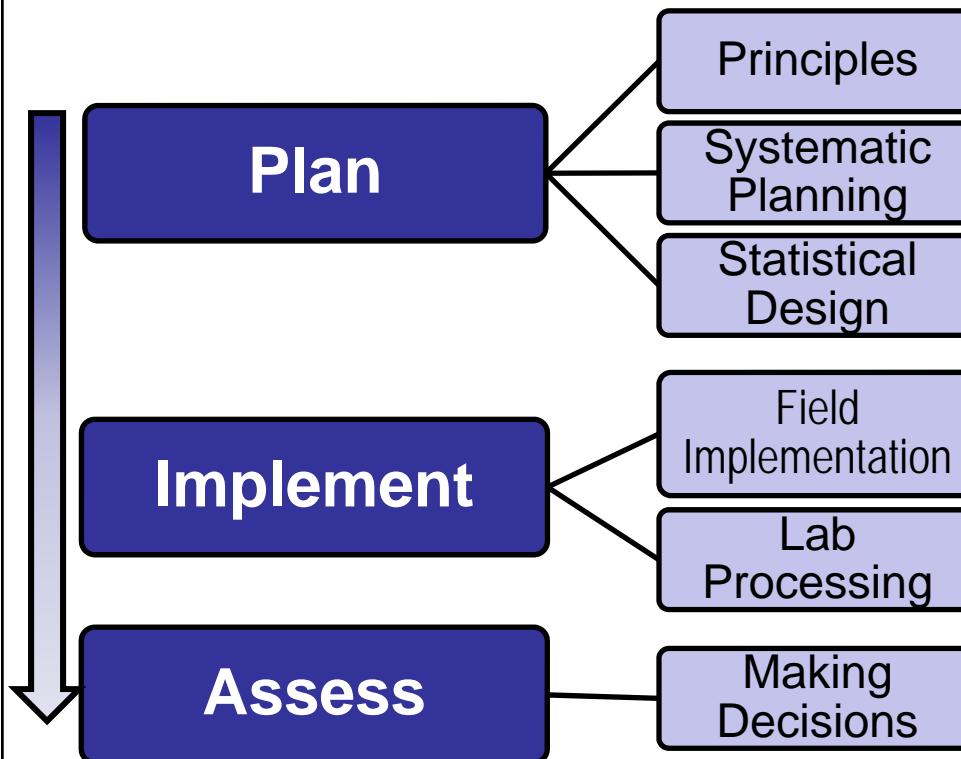
Report Documentation Page			<i>Form Approved OMB No. 0704-0188</i>	
<p>Public reporting burden for the collection of information is estimated to average 1 hour per response, including the time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. Send comments regarding this burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to Washington Headquarters Services, Directorate for Information Operations and Reports, 1215 Jefferson Davis Highway, Suite 1204, Arlington VA 22202-4302. Respondents should be aware that notwithstanding any other provision of law, no person shall be subject to a penalty for failing to comply with a collection of information if it does not display a currently valid OMB control number.</p>				
1. REPORT DATE MAR 2012	2. REPORT TYPE	3. DATES COVERED 00-00-2012 to 00-00-2012		
4. TITLE AND SUBTITLE ISM Document and Training Roadmap: Are You Getting a Representative Sample at Your Sites?		5a. CONTRACT NUMBER 5b. GRANT NUMBER 5c. PROGRAM ELEMENT NUMBER		
6. AUTHOR(S)		5d. PROJECT NUMBER 5e. TASK NUMBER 5f. WORK UNIT NUMBER		
7. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES) Interstate Technology and Regulatory Council (ITRC),50 F Street NW Ste 350,Washington,DC,20001		8. PERFORMING ORGANIZATION REPORT NUMBER		
9. SPONSORING/MONITORING AGENCY NAME(S) AND ADDRESS(ES)		10. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S ACRONYM(S) 11. SPONSOR/MONITOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)		
12. DISTRIBUTION/AVAILABILITY STATEMENT Approved for public release; distribution unlimited				
13. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES Presented at the 9th Annual DoD Environmental Monitoring and Data Quality (EDMQ) Workshop Held 26-29 March 2012 in La Jolla, CA. U.S. Government or Federal Rights License				
14. ABSTRACT				
15. SUBJECT TERMS				
16. SECURITY CLASSIFICATION OF: a. REPORT unclassified			17. LIMITATION OF ABSTRACT Same as Report (SAR)	18. NUMBER OF PAGES 9
b. ABSTRACT unclassified			19a. NAME OF RESPONSIBLE PERSON	
c. THIS PAGE unclassified				

Are You Getting a Representative Sample at Your Sites?



ITRC's ISM Solution

Web-Based Document at:
<http://www.itrcweb.org/ISM-1/>



Executive Summary - Windows Internet Explorer provided by Booz Allen Hamilton

o.org/ISM-1/Executive_Summary.html

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ITRC Incremental Sampling ...

Incremental Sampling Methodology

ITRC COUNCIL REGULATORY

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Printer Friendly Version

Incremental sampling methodology (ISM) is a structured composite sampling and processing protocol that reduces data variability and provides a reasonably unbiased estimate of mean contaminant concentrations in an area/volume of soil targeted for sampling. ISM provides representative samples of specific soil areas/volumes defined as decision units (DUs) by collecting numerous increments of soil (typically 30–100 increments) that are combined, processed, and subsampled according to specific protocols.

ISM is increasingly being used in the environmental field for sampling contaminants in soil. Proponents have found that the sampling density afforded by collecting many increments, together with the disciplined processing and subsampling of the combined increments, in most cases yields more consistent and reproducible results than those obtained by more traditional (i.e., discrete) sampling approaches.

In 2009 the ITRC established a technical team to evaluate ISM for sampling soils at hazardous waste sites and potentially contaminated properties. The ISM Team convened national experts in the fields such as toxicology, risk assessment, statistics, and soil sampling. Key efforts of the ISM Team included a statistical analysis of ISM performance, considerations of unique laboratory processes and procedures, the suitability of ISM to various contamination scenarios and contaminant categories, and identifying the strengths and weaknesses of ISM.

A key feature of the ISM Team's effort was emphasizing the need to integrate systematic planning for any soil sampling approach. As with any sampling approach, ISM requires the integration of quantitative soil sampling objectives with the conceptual site model. Other topics of interest to the ISM Team included the theoretical underpinnings of ISM, the planning and sampling design process for implementing ISM, and potential regulatory challenges to use of ISM, particularly the requirements for calculating upper confidence limits specified in some regulatory jurisdictions.

The processes and equipment described here are the best available at the time this document was written. As technology advances and new equipment, instrumentation, and processes are developed, they may be included in future ISM implementations provided they meet the data and measurement quality objectives for the site to be characterized.

Overall, members of the ISM Team have found that ISM provides reliable, reproducible sampling results and leads to better, more defensible decisions than have typically been achieved with many traditional sampling approaches. Such improvements result from the inherent attributes of ISM and the details of its implementation, including a clearer connection between sampling objectives and sampling approach. ISM works to address and overcome the sampling errors associated with soil sampling, integrates attention to detail in planning and field work, and requires attention to quality assurance/quality control measures throughout the sampling effort and not just in the laboratory. ISM also affords an economy of effort and resources. Generally, it would take dozens of discrete samples from any particular area to approach the reliability in an estimate of the mean provided by a well-designed incremental sampling approach. As a result of the advantages and improvements inherent in ISM over traditional methods, ISM is finding increased use in the field, as well as acceptance and endorsement by an increasing number of state and federal regulatory organizations.

Internet | Protected Mode

100%

ISM Applications

- ▶ Regulated sites
- ▶ Former pesticide-applied orchards
- ▶ Floodplain-impacted soils
- ▶ Stockpiled soil
- ▶ Post-soil treatment sampling
- ▶ Dredged materials



Orchard



Ball field

ISM Applications (continued)

- ▶ “Back 40”
- ▶ Firing ranges
- ▶ Confirmatory sampling
- ▶ Background
- ▶ Other
 - Fill material
 - “Rail to trail” sites

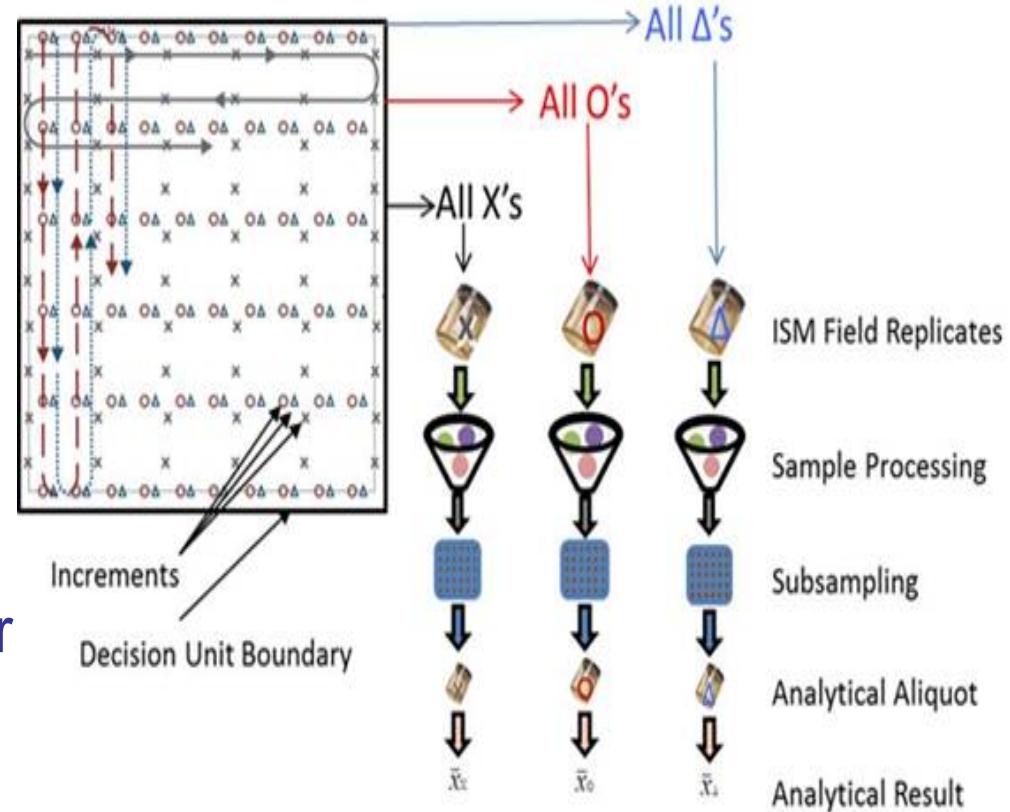


A Cost Comparison: ISM vs. Discrete



What Can ISM Do For Me?

- ▶ Unbiased estimate of the mean
- ▶ Improved spatial coverage
- ▶ Increased sample representativeness
- ▶ Address most common sources of sampling error
- ▶ Reduced data variability



What to Remember about ISM



- ▶ Calculation of a 95%UCL limited to two methods: student's t and Chebyshev
- ▶ No spatial resolution within Decision Unit

Incremental Sampling Methodology

The primary objective of sampling is to
obtain a representative sample.

